

Guilford/John –

I object to the current attempt to solve the perceived traffic problems on Lincoln Ave. The DPW website indicates (1) Vehicle speeds are 30 MPH over the posted limit. This is obviously outrageous, and something should be done about it. Enforcement would be a great start; blocking the use of this public road to other residents of Amherst is not. It also indicates (2) Vehicle volume is very high. Yes, we have many busy roads in our town. It is now, and for many, many years has been the route of choice to parts of campus. The proposal solution of diverting this traffic to other already-busy-roads is not a logical solution.

Before closing off a public road, I urge you to consider the principle of “greatest good for the greatest number.” Very few people will benefit from the partial blockade of one of our town roads, and many of our residents will be inconvenienced. I understand the concern of the residents that speeders endanger children, and I believe that we have to find solutions to speeders all over town. Blockade of the road is not a solution. Furthermore, adding more traffic to the other access routes to campus just increases danger to pedestrians on those roads. Lincoln may indeed become safer; many other roads, including Massachusetts Avenue with its many pedestrian crossings will become more dangerous, especially when you consider that many drivers are going to become angry drivers.

I see from the letters to the DPW that some people believe that you are proposing “speed tables.” I suggest that if you are intent to do something on Lincoln Avenue, you consider true speed tables (not the silly speed bumps that I saw so many drivers straddle a couple of years ago). I assume that this is what elevated crosswalks on route 9 at Amherst College are called. These seem to work and would solve the excess speed problem (, although I urge you to consider a five second delay from the time a pedestrian presses the button. I have seen many pedestrians press and walk; drivers don’t always have ample time to stop.). If the Lincoln Avenue residents are concerned about speeding, this should take care of it.

I continue to wonder why the Town continues to expend valuable resources and person-power on this doomed project at a time when the staff is stretched so thin to begin with. Why is this project of such great importance?

Jeff Blaustein